

**REMARKS**

Claims 68-114 were presented for examination in the present application and remain pending upon entry of the instant amendment. Claim 1 is independent.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his close attention to detail in reviewing the present application.

The Office Action objected to the specification. The specification has been amended to obviate the specific objections raised by the Examiner, as well as other errors noted by Applicants. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the specification.

Claims 68-144 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph. Claims 68-114 have been amended to obviate these rejections. Specifically, claim 68 has been amended to delete the objected elements, while claims 69-114 have been amended to conform these claims to the amendments made to claim 68. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 68-144 are respectfully requested.

Claim 68 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over U.S. Patent No. 6,654,172 to Pond et al. (Pond).

Claim 68 is now directed to a stepped lens spotlight that includes “a lamp”, “a reflector” and “a stepped lens with a diffusing screen”. Further, claim 68 now recites that the stepped spotlight has an aperture angle of the light emerging therefrom that is **settable** between “a flood position and a spot position, and wherein, in said flood position, a larger portion of light emitted by said lamp passes through said diffusing screen in comparison to said spot position (emphasis added)”. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification at least at pages 34 to 37, as well as in FIGS. 10-12.

Thus, claim 68 requires that, in the spot position, only smaller portion of light passes through the diffusing screen, while, in the flood position, a larger portion of light passes through the diffusing screen.

Applicants respectfully submit that Pond simply fails to disclose or suggest the stepped lens spotlight now claimed.

Pond discloses a tail/stop lamp assembly 10 for vehicles, which uses as a light source light emitting diodes 100. The tail/stop lamp assembly is composed of an housing, a lens, and an LED light array. The lens is composed of six different optical elements 50, 60 and 70 surrounded by Fresnel rings. Referring to FIGS. 1-2, and 4, the center of each optical element 50, 60 and 70 is positioned above one of light emitting diodes 100. Due to the optical arrangement of optical elements 50, 60 and 70, the LED diode array does not have to be aligned in an exact position with respect to the optical elements 50, 60 and 70. Thus, Pond provides lamp 10 that is configured to allow the LED diode array 100 to move around slightly without affecting the distribution and intensity of the light emitted from the lamp.

However, Pond clearly fails to disclose or suggest a stepped lens spotlight that includes an aperture angle that is settable between "a flood position and a spot position" as in claim 68. Further, Pond clearly fails to disclose or suggest that in the flood position, a larger portion of light emitted by the lamp passes through a diffusing screen in comparison to the spot position as in claim 68.

Therefore, claim 68 as well as claims 69-114 that depend therefrom, are not disclosed or suggested by Pond and, thus, claims 68-114 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 68-114 are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N. J. Ruggiero", written over a horizontal line.

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